

# DISCIPLESHIP REFLECTION

## SPEAKER PREPARATION MATERIAL

**Speaker:** Adult Team Member

**Time:** First reflection of Go Day

**Length:** 20 minutes

**Scripture:** John 15: 15-17

**Previous Reflection:** Signs

**Following Reflection:** Young Christian as Disciple

### **Setting:**

Participants may sense that the weekend is moving toward a conclusion. How will they convey this experience at home, at school, or in their work environments? They may identify with the apostles as they found themselves alone after the Ascension.

### **Progression:**

Assurance comes with knowing that they have been chosen by Christ to be co-workers in the vineyard. They have been living discipleship all weekend and will now contemplate the empowerment to be expected when relationship connects to mission, as it does in the Eucharist. The call to holiness is an invitation to a process for living, not an attribute to be obtained. Holiness is being the person God has called us to be. Discipleship is a response to Jesus' call.

### **Purpose:**

Your reflection helps participants name the experience of discipleship. They sense the call, which originates with God, not with anyone's personal ideas or goals; conversion transforms them, moving them into the heart of Jesus; God's call requires a total commitment that puts nothing ahead of the Lord Jesus and living one's faith. An authentic call to discipleship creates a sense of mission in the disciple.

### **Faith Awareness:**

Our ideal is to be "rooted in Christ," which means Christ has chosen us to enter into the Paschal Mystery. Discipleship is not a matter of 'book' knowledge, but living in intimate union with Christ. This is made possible because of the incarnation and the paschal mystery. Our daily dying and rising with Christ will bring us to Christ, who will lead us to those who have not yet been touched by Jesus' healing presence. Mary was the first disciple and our model for discipleship. The participants may reflect upon Mary's "yes" and how they have responded to God in their own lives.

**Response:**

To be chosen and called to an encounter with Christ provides a life-changing moment of grace, both personal and meaningful. The weekend may help many to continue their journey into the heart of Christ and, in union with him, into the hearts of all with whom they associate. Participants may be asking, "How is God calling me to live? What is God calling me to do?"

**Scriptures for further reflection:**

John 14:23;

John 15:1-15

Matthew 28: 19-20

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## OUTLINE

After reading and praying with the scripture for this reflection, please study the outline carefully. Time constraints may require you to be selective. As you develop your stories and examples, consider the points in bold as most essential to the purpose of your sharing and the continuity of the weekend.

**Scripture:** Make sure to read John 15:15-17 from the enthroned Bible at the point in your reflection where you feel it is most apropros:

*I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another. (John 15:15-17)*

### **I. Discipleship begins as an invitation, a CALL which comes from God.**

- A. Share a story of when you felt called or invited by Christ to something important or special.
- B. Discipleship does not begin with our personal choice, but rather as Christ's choice.
- C. Christ calls persons individually, in many ways, through many types of experiences, people, and situations (offer an example if possible). Refer back to your story.
- D. Our call to discipleship involves discerning our gifts. Spiritual friends, guides, and mentors assist us in humbly knowing our gifts.
- E. Christian disciples are invited by God to listen to how their gifts meet the needs of the community.

### **II. Disciples respond to Christ and experience CONVERSION.**

- A. As we remember from our Metanoia reflection, Christ transforms our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit, drawing us into the paschal mystery.
- B. Conversion is an ongoing process, bringing us ever closer to God and others.
- C. Our ongoing conversion draws us out of ourselves for the benefit of others.

<sup>1</sup> Jeffrey Kaster, Youth Ministry. Collegeville,(MN:Liturgical Press, 2016, p, 38.)

### **III. Disciples, responding faithfully to Christ's love, make a COMMITMENT to using their gifts.**

- A. Our commitment to discipleship requires our attention to relationships, personal growth, and spiritual growth.
- B. Relationships with Christ and others also require sacrifices.
- C. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was the first disciple and an excellent model of faith.
- D. From her "yes" to God at the Annunciation to her silent assent at the cross, Mary remained firm in her decision to follow Jesus.
- E. Share a time when you said "yes" to Christ, knowing that you would face obstacles and challenges. Why did you make this choice?

### **IV. Disciples carry out Christ's MISSION in the world.**

- A. The Church prepares us for Christ's mission.
  - 1. The Sacraments nourish and form us in Christ's image.
    - a. At Baptism, we are welcomed into God's family.
    - b. In Confession, we are forgiven and reconnected to the Body of Christ.
    - c. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist and become ever more united to him.
    - d. At our Confirmation, the Holy Spirit calls us to responsibility as a disciple and fills us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. Faith communities support disciples in carrying out Christ's mission (parishes, TEC, etc).
- B. The mission of the disciple is to live the good news of Jesus.
  - 1. God calls all people to holiness through our Baptism. This universal call to holiness draws us to align our will with God's will.
  - 2. Through discernment, we can also discover our particular vocation to priesthood, religious life, married life, or the single life.
  - 3. Share a brief example of someone who is living out their particular vocation and their universal call to holiness in an effective way.
- C. Share a story of how you are trying to live out this mission.
  - 1. How are you being formed and supported by the Church community?
  - 2. How is your experience of discipleship drawing you closer to God?

### **Direct the participants to the questions in their TEC booklet:**

- 1. How do you think God might be calling you?
- 2. How can you be a disciple in today's world?
- 3. Name someone you know personally whom you consider a disciple for Jesus.